

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 3, 10-25 and 30 will be pending. Claims 10-20, 22, 24, 25 and 30 are allowed, claim 3 has been objected to and claims 21 and 23 stand rejected. Applicants, in the interest of furthering the prosecution of this application, have cancelled claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 26-29. The Examiner had previously indicated that claim 3 would be allowed if amended to include the features of the base claim. Applicants have so amended claim 3. In the final office action, the Examiner also indicated that claims 21 and 23 would be allowed if amended to overcome an indefiniteness problem. The Applicants amended claims 21 and 23 accordingly in the after final response to overcome this rejection. The Examiner entered the after final amendment, but did not indicate that these claims were now allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21 and 23 are allowable and should be permitted to issue along with the other claims of the present application.

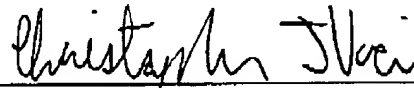
By amending the application, the Applicants do not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as filed. Applicants believe that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicants have recited in their claims.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 593-9900.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0496 for any fee which may be due.

Date: _____

10/3/03

Christopher J. Voci
Registration No. 45,184
Dobrusin & Thennisch PC
401 S. Old Woodward Avenue,
Suite 311
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-593-9900
Customer No. 25,215